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BOOKS IN COLONIAL VIRGINIA.

The study of our old county records has thrown new light on many subjects connected with our history; but in no instance has a greater revision of former opinions been caused than in regard to books and reading. Northern and English writers used to say that Virginians were brave and hospitable; but given up to the pleasures of the field, the card table, and the race track, and almost entirely without acquaintance with books. Our own writers, having no information to the contrary kept a discreet silence. As a distinguished Virginia historian said not long ago, we should not be surprised at any misrepresentation by persons outside of the State, for we had furnished them no data upon which a correct opinion could be formed. Now all students of Virginia history are aware that there were in the colony a number of libraries, which, for the period, were quite large and valuable; but even a friendly writer, like Mr. Fiske, seems to think that these were exceptional cases, and that love of books and reading were confined to some of the wealthiest and best educated class. Therefore it is of even greater interest to show from the county records how widely spread, even among the less wealthy planters was the possession of books, and that literature was not confined to a comparatively few wealthy and educated planters. The following partial list taken from some county records, contains names of persons of various grades of wealth and social standing. The names of owners, county and date, are given. The dates are those of inventory or probate of will:

- Henry Fitzhugh, Stafford, 1743—books appraised at £258. 7. 9.
- Rice Hooe, Stafford, 1748—three vols., and "a parcel of old books."
- Wm. Waugh, Stafford, 1748—"A parcel of old books, at £1. 7."
- John Buckner, Stafford, 1748—80 vols.
- Rev. David Stuart, Stafford, 1749—48 titles, including Latin, &c.
- Rawley Travers, Stafford, 1749—"books old and new," at 21 sh., 6d.
- Robt. Massey, Stafford, 1753—Mercer's Abridgment, and "a parcel of old books @ 8 sh."
- Philip Alexander, Stafford, 1753—"A parcel of old books," at £6.
- Rice Hooe, Stafford, 1757—7 titles.
- Travers Cooke, Stafford, 1759—8 vols. named, and "a parcel of old books," at £4. 8.
- George Hedgman, Stafford, 1760—4 titles.
- John Peyton, Stafford, 1760—"Old and new books," at £2.
- Cadwallader Dade, Stafford, 1760—2 Bibles, and "some other old books."
- Townshend Dade, Stafford, 1760—"A parcel of old books," at 10 sh.

Robt. Alexander, Stafford, 1704—2 Bibles and "a parcel of old books."
Philip Alexander, Stafford, 1705—"A parcel of old books," at 80 lb. tobacco.

Rev. John Waugh, Stafford, 1706—books at 3,000 lbs. tobacco.

Thomson Mason, Stafford, 1785—73 titles (nearly all law) and in Loudoun county, 34 titles (nearly all law).

Robert Burgess, Stafford, 1762—10 titles, Latin Bibles and three "old books."

Rev. John Moncure, Stafford, 1765—137 titles.

Wm. Walker, Stafford, 1767—38 vols.

Wm. Fitzhugh, Stafford, 1701—Leaves two sons his "study of books.

Henry Churchill, Fauquier, 1762—"Books" at £88. 19. 3.

Duff Green, Fauquier, 1766—7 vols.

Gilson Foote, Fauquier, 1770—"A parcel of books" at £1. 10.

Thos. Harrison, Fauquier, 1774—45 vols.

Bartholomew Vawter, Essex, 1717—"A parcel of old books," at 15 sh.

Leonard Tarrent, Essex, 1718—"A parcel of old books," and 26 vols. of others.

Wm. Young, Essex, 1719—"A parcel of old books," at £1.

John Talioferro, Essex, 1720—21 vols.

John Chamberlain, Essex, 1726—"Books," at £1.

John Hawkins, Essex, 1726—"A parcel of old books," at £2. 5.

Henry Oswald, Essex, 1726—"Books," at £3. 7.

Rev. John Bagge, Essex, 1726—"Books," at £22. 1.

Reuben Welch, Essex, 1729—290 vols., and "a parcel of old paper news books."

Robert Jones, Essex, 1729—"A parcel of law books," at £2. 10, and "Some books of divinity," at 10 sh.

Rev. Lewis Latane, Essex, 1737—112 titles.

Wm. Brooke, Essex, 1734—"Books," at £4. 10.

Wm. Dangerfield, Essex, 1735—"Books," at £1. 15.

Thos. Jones, Essex, 1739—"Books," at £2. 9.

Robt. Brooke, Essex, 1745—138 titles.

Wm. Philips, Essex, 1747—60 titles, including Greek and Latin.

Daniel Scott, Cumberland, 1754—17 vols., at £4. 3.

Benj. Moseley, Cumberland, 1757—"A parcel of books," at 17 sh.

Benj. Harris, Cumberland, 1760—History of the Bible, 2 books of divinity, and "a parcel of law books."

John Peter La Villan, Cumberland, 1768—"A parcel of French books."

John Pleasants, Cumberland, 1765—26 vols.

John Carlyle, Cumberland, 1765—"Sundry books," at £4. 10.

John Chastain, Cumberland, 1762—"A parcel of physick and French books."

Daniel Stoner, Cumberland, 1762—54 vols.

Stephen Mosby, Cumberland, 1760—7 vols., at £1.

- Arthur Moseley, Cumberland, 1771—23 vols. (including 5 Latin).
 George Carrington, Cumberland, 1785—68 vols.
 Daniel Cromer, Goochland, 1735—"A parcel of old books," at £1.
 Stephen and Martha Chastain, Goochland, 1740—"A parcel of French books."
 Jacob Michaux, Goochland, 1744—A parcel of old books.
 Stephen Clement, Goochland, 1746—A parcel of old books at 4 sh.,
 3d.
 John Woodson, Goochland, 1754—A parcel of old books at £2.
 Robert Cauthorn, Goochland, 1755—A parcel of old books at 18 sh.
 Thomas Massie, Goochland, 1755—Books at 15 sh.
 Henry Wood, Goochland, 1757—47 vols.
 Mary Farrar, Goochland, 1758—Old books at 10 sh.
 Zachariah Bowls, Goochland, 1761—Books at 4sh. 6d.
 Josiah Hatcher, Goochland, 1767—Old books at 5sh.
 John Bibb, Goochland, 1769—Books at £1. 12, and 2 vols. more at
 £3. 17.
 Noell Burton, Goochland, 1770—Old books at 8sh.
 Thomas Brooks, Goochland, 1772—Books at 5sh.
 Geo. Thompson, Goochland, 1751—Old books at 7sh. 6d.
 Rich'd Pleasants, Goochland, 1778—Books at £2. 17.
 Alex. Boyd, Augusta, 1766—76 vols.
 Rev. Thos. Jackman, Augusta, 1773—About 200 titles.
 Lanty Elliott, Augusta, 1779—"Books."
 David Stewart, Augusta, 1767—18 vols.
 James Stewart, Augusta, 1772—Books at £1. 5.
 Nicholas Johnson, Louisa, 1766—Old books, at 10 sh.
 Abraham Venable, Louisa, 1769—Books at £15. 7. 6.
 Sir Wm. Bickley, Bart., Louisa, 1771—A parcel of old books.
 Mary Barrett, Louisa, 1785—16 vols., a parcel of old books, and parcels of old law and physick books.
 Thos. Osborne, Prince William, 1737—5 small old law books and a parcel of old books.
 Wm. Dunlop, Prince William, 1740—118 titles (many French).
 John Catlett, Orange, 1745—A parcel of old books at £1.
 Harry Turner, King George, 1752—Books at £11.
 Wm. Thornton, King George, 1743—A parcel of old books.
 Rev. Wm. Key, Lunenburg, 1764—82 titles and also 60 Latin books and also pamphlets.
 Clement Read, Lunenburg, 1763—A parcel of books at £20. and a parcel of law books at £5.
 Isaac Read, Charlotte, 1778—65 vols.
 Walter Campbell, Brunswick, 1751—11 vols. named, and a parcel of old books at £2.
 Sterling Clack, Brunswick, 1751—28 vols. named, a parcel of old books

at 2 sh., a parcel of law books at £4, and a parcel of small books at £1. 5.

John Nevinson, Brunswick, 1769—174 vols. at £28. 6. 4.

Wm. Carr, Spotsylvania, 1760—22 vols.

Wm. Waller, Spotsylvania, 1756—104 vols. named, 2 parcels of old books, 1 parcel of very old books, 1 parcel of old law books.

Henry Willes, Spotsylvania, "A parcel of old books, mostly Lattin," at £2.

Ric'd Tutt, Spotsylvania, 1767—45 vols. named, and a parcel of old books.

Dr. Jno. Suthe.land, Spotsylvania, 1763—8 titles and 67 vols. medical books, and 94 old books.

Dr. Henry Heath, Spotsylvania, 1771—The inventory on record includes 2 folio pages of titles of books.

Larkin Chew, Spotsylvania, 1729—Some old books, at 10 sh.

John Waller, Spotsylvania, 1754—137 titles.

Richard Johnson, Spotsylvania, 1726—A parcel of old books, at 15 sh.

Harry Beverley, Spotsylvania, 1731—Books at £10. 10.

Ambrose Madison, Spotsylvania, 1733—28 vols.

Joseph Brock, Spotsylvania, 1742—43 vols. named, and also 28 small old Latin books.

Dr. David Black, Prince George, 1783—223 vols.

Wm. Kennon, Chesterfield, 1759—Books, at £10.

Philip Smith, Northumberland, 1744—"2 large Bibles, 2 small do., Tillotson's Works, Beverage's Works, several books of law & physick, books of husbandry, 6 prayer books, several other sort of books."

Adam Menzies, Northumberland, 1767—231 vols. books and a parcel of old books, pamphlets and magazine—the parcel valued at £1. 5.

Baldwin M. Smith, Northumberland, 1761—Books, at £13.

Peter Jefferson, Albemarle, 1757—24 titles.

Rev. James Maury, Albemarle, 1774—400 vols. books and 44 pamphlets.

Robt. Bracewell, Isle of Wight, 1668—A parcel of books at 500 lbs. tobacco.

John Watson, Isle of Wight, 1673—A parcel of books.

John Godwin, Isle of Wight, 1675—A parcel of old books.

Giles Driver, Isle of Wight, 1677—A parcel of books at 700 lbs. tobacco.

Thos. Woodward, Isle of Wight, 1678—A parcel of books.

John Jennings, Isle of Wight, 1679—A parcel of books.

Edm. Wicken, Isle of Wight, 1679—A parcel of books at 170 lbs. tobacco.

John Bromfield, Isle of Wight, 1681—A parcel of books at 800 lbs. tobacco.

Thos. Pitt, Isle of Wight, 1689—A parcel of books at 400 lbs. tobacco.

Dr. David Parker, Prince George, 1717—244 vols.

Jno. Edmunds, Sussex, 1770—100 titles books, and 20 pamphlets.

The records of the counties from which these notes were taken were not examined with a view to obtaining this information, but hasty notes were made, during the course of examination for another purpose. So the list given here does not fully represent the number of books, even in the counties named.

Those who may wish to go further into the matter will find the following references in the *William and Mary Quarterly*: I, 208; II, 169, 175, 247-251; III, 43-45, 132-134, 180-182, 246-253; IV, 15-17, 101, 156, 269; V, 61, 107, 135; VI, 6, 40-41, 44, 158-164; VII, 14, 248, 253; and in the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*: I, 422, 449, 471; II, 225-226, 236, 237, 238, 277; 279; III, 4 (2) 64, 271, 388-391; IV, 164, 288-292, 361, 407, 427, 428; V, 40, 145, 167; VI, 1, 71, 115, 121, 146, 148, 261, 262.

Historical and Genealogical Notes and Queries.

PUNISHMENT OF A SLAVE FOR MURDER, ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA, 1778.

WARM SPRINGS, BATH COUNTY, VA., *January 24, 1899.*

Editor of Virginia Magazine of History and Biography.

DEAR SIR,—In reviewing the *Barons of Potomac and Rappahannock*, by Moncure D. Conway, in Vol. I, No. 2, p. 222—the reviewer stated that there was no historical or record evidence of the law for quartering slaves, preserved.

In Vol. I, No. 3, p. 328, the writer publishes the refutation of his own statement, by giving a transcript of record of Goochland county, showing a sentence pronounced by the County Court 25th June, 1733, ordering the heads and quarters of two negroes, when executed to be set up in several parts of the county. See also his references to this transcript on pages 356, * 358, *

While at Harrisonburg, Rockingham county, in December last, I found the record of a trial held in the County Court in 1778, condemning a slave to be hung on 18th June, 1778, and his head to be severed from his dead body and stuck upon a pole at a cross road, about one mile from the present town. I herewith hand you a certified copy of the proceedings.

Yours truly,

J. T. McALLISTER.